REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Petition is hereby made under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) for an extension of three months of the period for response to the Office Action. Our cheque in respect of the prescribed fee is enclosed.

The Examiner withdrew claims 12 to 15 as being directed to a non-elected invention. These claims now have been deleted. The deletion of claims 12 to 15 is made without prejudice to the applicants right to file one or more divisional or continuation applications directed towards such subject matter.

The Examiner noted that the applicants had not complied with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821 to 1.825 with respect to a Sequence Listing. Submitted herewith are a Sequence Listing in paper copy and in computer readable form. By this Amendment, the paper copy is inserted into the specification. It is hereby stated that the content of the paper and computer readable copies of the same and involve no new matter. A copy of the Notice to Comply also is enclosed. It is submitted that the specification now complies with 37 CFR 1.821 to 1.825

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 11 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner considered the term "a T-cell inducing HIV-derived molecule" to be indefinite. Reconsideration is requested.

The present invention is concerned with the generation of an HIV-specific cytotoxic T-cell (CTL) response in a host. This result is achieved by first administering to the host a T-helper molecule to prime T-helper cells of the immune system of the host. Subsequently, there is administered to the host a mixture of the T-helper molecule and a T-cell inducing HIV-derived molecule to generate an HIV-specific T-cell sequence in the host.

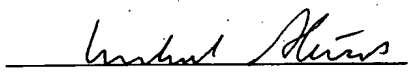
The term "T-cell inducing HIV-derived molecule" is self-explanatory and not indefinite. The molecule is derived from HIV and induces T-cells. As explained in

the disclosure, the T-cell inducing HIV-derived molecule generally includes a peptide containing a portion of a HIV-1 antigen and containing at least one T-cell epitope. In particular, the peptide may correspond to sequences of the Rev protein of HIV-1, particularly corresponding to amino acids 52 to 116 of HIV-1 (LAI) Rev. The invention also includes the use of corresponding peptide sequences from Rev protein from other HIV-1 isolates, including primary isolates. The combined effect of the administration of the molecule and the T-helper molecule to the primed host is to generate an HIV-specific T-cell response in the host.

Having regard to this discussion, it is submitted that a person skilled in the art would well understand the meaning of the term "T-cell inducing HIV-derived molecule". Accordingly, it is submitted that the claims fully comply with 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and hence the rejection should be withdrawn.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and early and favourable consideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael I. Stewart
Reg. No. 24,973

Toronto, Ontario, Canada,
(416) 595-1155
FAX No. (416) 595-1163